

h.p

|                               |                 |              |  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | Application No. | Applicant(s) |  |
|                               | 10/501,997      | MAIER ET AL. |  |
|                               | Examiner        | Art Unit     |  |
|                               | Bryan Bui       | 2863         |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**  
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>7/04 and 8/04</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                                    | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

Art Unit: 2863

1. This application is examined. A preliminary amendment filed on 7/21/2004 has been received and entered. Claims 1-18 have been amended. Claims 19-30 have been added. Claims 1-30 are pending in the application.
2. IDS submitted on 7/21/2004 and 8/19/2004 have been received and considered (noted that examiner initialed a form-1449 of IDS submitted on 8/19/2004 with English translation provided in abstract, and cross out a form-1449 of IDS submitted on 7/21/2004 as duplicated and no English translation).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-30 are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the prior art whether taken singularly or in combination to teach the claimed combination, especially when these limitations are considered within the specific combination as recited in the claims, such require: A method for acquiring and processing signals from industrial processes including at least one partial process, the industrial process being at least one of controlled and regulated by at least one automation device equipped with at least one bus systems, that the method comprising: using at least one measuring bus system which is not identical to the at east one bus system of the automation device; acquiring measuring signals using at least one measuring head, the measuring head acquiring measuring signals at an input end from signal generators of the industrial process which are at least one of present and additionally provided and passing on these measuring signals at an output end to the measuring bus system in a predefined

Art Unit: 2863

form; further processing the measuring signals by at least one data concentrator; and automatically detecting at least one of measuring heads and data concentrators (claim 1); A device for acquiring and processing signals from industrial processes including at least one partial process, the industrial process being at least one of controlled and regulated by at least one automation device equipped with at least one bus system, that the device comprising: at least one measuring bus system, which is not identical to the at least one bus system of the automation device; at least one measuring head for acquiring measuring signals, connected at an input end to signal generators of the industrial process which are at least one of present and additionally provided, and at an output end, passes on signals in a predefined form to the measuring bus system; at least one data concentrator, connected to the measuring bus system; and means for automatically detecting at least one of measuring heads and data concentrators (claim 10); A device for acquiring and processing signals from industrial processes including at least one partial process, the industrial process being at least one of controlled and regulated by at least one automation device equipped with at least one bus system, that the device comprising: at least one measuring bus system, which is not identical to the at least one bus system of the automation device; means for acquiring measuring signals, connected at an input end to signal generators of the industrial process, and at an output end, for passing on signals in a predefined form to the measuring bus system; at least one data concentrator, connected to the measuring bus system; and means for automatically detecting at least one of measuring heads and data concentrators (claim

Art Unit: 2863

26). The closest prior arts (reference submitted by applicant DE 19953189) discloses systems has a control valve with an electronic control circuit that regulates the valve according to a measured value such as pressure, flow rate, etc. connected to the controller is a first standard interface for connection to an external bus, while a second standard interface connects to an internal bus for connection to sensor that measure values used by the control circuit (abstract). Another reference (WO 0133087) discloses a control arrangement for a hydraulic or pneumatic system. At least one electrohydraulic or electopneumatic control valve is provided. The at least one state variable of the control valve can be controlled and is evaluated in a control unit. Corresponding adjustment signals can be generated in the unit. A high ranking control unit is connected to the control valve via corresponding coupling elements and by means of a first bus system. An electronic circuit is arranged on the control valve respectively. Said circuit serves for controlling the control valve and acts as a control unit for the state variables. A first standardized interface for coupling the first bus system is provided on the control unit and a second standardized interface is provided for coupling a second internal bus system having sensors for the state variables of the control valve (abstract and figure 1). A general reference (US 5805312) discloses a signal processor validates the image signal thus read once every N scans according to a selection signal from a mode control circuit. A record circuit having a thermal head performs one main scan every sub scan. During operation at a speed N times and the standard sensor reads the image by performing one main scan every sub scan and the signal processor makes the read image signal always valid by the selection signal (abstract and figure 17).

All of the references above either taken singularly or in combination that does not teach or suggest the claimed combination as recited in the current application.

The remaining claims 2-9, 11-25, and 27-30 are allowable as dependency claims of the parent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bryan Bui whose telephone number is 571-272-2271. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th from 7am-4pm, and Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2863

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BB

9/26/2005

BRYAN BUI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

